

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FDRE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07

IGA-02 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /060 W

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O 161930Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 299

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1264

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: SWEL, GT

SUBJ: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE: PARKER CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

REF: STATE 37661

1. AID DIRECTOR HAS DISCUSSED TWO QUESTIONS POSED IN
REFTEL WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE LAMPORT AND
PLANNING COUNCIL.

2. MINISTER OF FINANCE LAMPORT STATES IT DIFFICULT TO
ESTIMATE HOW MUCH GOG SPENDING ON DAILY BASIS. HOWEVER,
GOG HAS AUTHORIZED ALL MINISTRIES TO SPEND THEIR NORMAL
MONTHLY BUDGET ON RELIEF WORK. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT
AFTER SUBTRACTING \$12 MILLION FOR SALARIES, THE GOG
WOULD BE DIRECTING \$19,600,000 IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY
TOWARD REHABILITATION EFFORT. IN ADDITION, LAMPORT
NOTED THAT GOG HAS OPENED UP A SPECIAL FUND FOR REHABILITA-
TION AND RELIEF THROUGH TREASURY LETTERS OF CREDIT FOR
\$20 MILLION TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR REHABILITATION
AND RELIEF.

3. GERT ROSENTHAL WHO IS WORKING WITH PLANNING
COUNCIL INFORMED AID DIRECTOR THAT GOG ESTIMATES FOR TOTAL
REHABILITATION/RECONSTRUCTION ARE VERY PRELIMINARY AND RANGE
FROM \$600 MILLION TO \$1.2 BILLION, DEPENDING UPON
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WHAT VALUATION IS PLACED ON ADOBE HOUSES WHICH

WERE DESTROYED. GOG IS STUDYING SUBJECT AND HOPES FOR FIRMER FIGURE BY THE END OF THE WEEK. TO DATE GOG HAS DELIBERATELY HELD OFF FROM SENDING PEOPLE OUT IN THE FIELD TO EVALUATE OVERALL REHABILITATION COSTS IN ORDER TO AVOID INTERFERING WITH RELIEF OPERATIONS.

4. ALONG WITH OTHER MATERIAL, WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDING U-2 PHOTO ANALYSIS RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON TO PLANNING COUNCIL WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN GOG FOR ASSESSING DAMAGES. GOG HAS EXPRESSED SPECIAL APPRECIATION FOR U-2 ANALYSIS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, FUND ALLOTMENT, EARTHQUAKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUATEM01264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760058-0467
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760245/aaaabnss.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 37661
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE: PARKER CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY
TAGS: SWEL, GT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006